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Programme Committee
1990 session

STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE ON ITS MEETINGS HELD AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS FROM 18 TO 24 APRIL 1990

Addendum

I. STRATEGIES FOR CHILDREN (E/ICEF/1990/L.5 AND E/ICEF/1990/CRP.2)

1. The Programme Committee recommends the following draft resolution for adoption by the Executive Board:

The Executive Board,

Having considered the valuable report "Development goals and strategies for children: priorities for UNICEF action in the 1990s" (E/ICEF/1990/L.5) and document E/ICEF/1990/CRP.2,

Recalling Executive Board decision 1989/5 on "Strategy for children in the 1990s",

Concerned by the extent and the gravity of the unmet needs of large numbers of children in most societies,

Aware that the situation of the children today shapes the world of tomorrow,

Convinced that the political will to improve the situation of the child is essential to any effort in this sense,

Recalling that the development of strategies, the setting of priorities and the implementation of the necessary actions are important means for the sustainable improvement of the situation of children,

Recalling furthermore the role of UNICEF, in collaboration with Governments, other concerned international agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to identify unmet needs of children and to support countries in planning and implementing appropriate action, as well as to promote awareness of these unmet needs and of available solutions,

1. Urges all States, as well as international and non-governmental agencies, to take into account the following aspects in the formulation and implementation of strategies for children:

(a) The purpose of development is the well-being of all human beings through the fulfilment of basic human needs and the building of human capacities;

(b) The strategies for children should be situated within general development strategies and should take into account, inter alia, national capacity-building, poverty alleviation, people's, in particular women's, empowerment and participation in planning and implementation, sustainability and environmental soundness, and co-ordinated and intersectoral policies, recognizing the necessity for adequate resources to achieve these objectives;

2. Approves, in this perspective, the goals and strategies for children and development contained in documents E/ICEF/1990/L.5 and E/ICEF/1990/CRP.2 as the guiding principles for UNICEF work in the 1990s, while stressing the importance of maximizing the long-term development impact:

(a) The focus of UNICEF activities will, therefore, be on:

(i) Integrated primary health care, with special emphasis on child and maternal health, including safe motherhood and family planning;

(ii) Food and nutrition;

(iii) Safe water supply and environmental sanitation;

(iv) Basic education, with special emphasis on girls and women;

(v) Children in especially difficult circumstances;

(b) The principles mentioned above will guide the formulation of the UNICEF medium-term plan and the biennial budget and the setting of the specific programme priorities, which will be submitted to the Executive Board through the normal process, together with the country programme recommendations, the proposals for commitments of financial resources and other proposals;

(c) The country programming process must have primacy;

(d) Goals and targets may be valuable aiming-posts and bench-marks;

3. Calls upon States, individually and collectively, to set goals and to develop and implement national, regional and international strategies for children;

4. Further calls upon States to support the goals and strategies as contained in documents E/ICEF/1990/L.5 and E/ICEF/1990/CRP.2 as part of the broader international development strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade;

5. Requests all States, international development agencies and NGOs to help mobilize the necessary financial resources and political support to help achieve the major goals and strategies contained in documents E/ICEF/1990/L.5 and E/ICEF/1990/CRP.2 which may imply the restructuring of the allocation of resources and of the use of available means.

II. CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE (E/ICEF/1990/CRP.4)

2. The Programme Committee recommends the following draft resolution for adoption by the Executive Board:

The Executive Board,

Recognizing UNICEF global concern for children,

Noting the particular pressures on children at this time in countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the particular needs of children as set out in the information note on children in Eastern Europe (E/ICEF/1990/CRP.4) within the context of the UNICEF concern for children in industrialized countries as indicated in the medium-term plan (E/ICEF/1990/3 and Corr.1),

Reconfirming the UNICEF commitment to concentrate its financial support in developing countries,

1. Requests the Executive Director, as a special effort of transitional support over the transitional period of 1990-1992:

(a) To report on the impact on children of the changing situation in Central and Eastern Europe and to keep the development under review;

(b) In response to requests, to provide technical support to rethink policies for child survival, development and protection in the context of the new situations of Central and Eastern Europe. This support during the period of transition should draw on UNICEF experience with low-cost technologies and approaches to health, nutrition, early childhood education and other sectors;

(c) To respond on an exceptional basis to specific requests for support within normal UNICEF practices.

UNICEF is authorized without any diversion of support from developing countries to spend additionally up to $1 million per year from the administrative budget during the period of 1990-1992. The $1 million per year should, to the maximum extent possible, be replenished by special contributions. Costs should be covered, inasmuch as possible, through the utilization of non-convertible currencies from concerned Central and Eastern European countries.

The funds will be spend in support of data collection on the situation of children and women, analytical studies, technical workshops, information materials and other related activities. The $1 million will also cover necessary staff costs.

In this context, and in accordance with the present division of labour within UNICEF, the Geneva Office should be directly associated with these activities.

2. Requests the Executive Director to consult closely with other United Nations organizations active in Central and Eastern Europe, so as to avoid unnecessary duplication;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Executive Board on progress made with the above activities in 1991 and 1992 as part of the report of the Executive Director.

III. CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN SOUTH AFRICA (E/ICEF/1990/P/L.42)

3. The Programme Committee recommends the following draft resolution for adoption by the Executive Board:

The Executive Board,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/22 A and K of 12 December 1989 and the consensus "Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa" (S-16/1) of the sixteenth special session of the United Nations of 14 December 1989,

Recalling the UNICEF report entitled "Children on the Front Line" of 1989 and the "Report of the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid" (A/AC.115/L.665) of 16 January 1990,

Having considered the UNICEF report on "UNICEF support for children and women in South Africa" (E/ICEF/1990/P/L.42) of 30 March 1990 and the presentation on women and children given by the UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa,

Convinced that the continuation of the policy and practice of apartheid is detrimental to the well-being of the peoples of South Africa and southern Africa, in particular, women and children,

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Gravely concerned about the large numbers of homeless, abandoned, displaced and street children in South Africa,

Expressing concern about the high infant mortality rate among the black children of South Africa, which is approximately ten times higher than that of white children and is one of the highest in the region,

1. Reaffirms that it is a primary responsibility of the United Nations and the international community to take all the necessary action for the eradication of apartheid and, in particular, the need for effective pressure on the South African authorities as a peaceful means of achieving the total elimination of apartheid;

2. Reaffirms UNICEF efforts in line with the Executive Board decision of 1978 that the needs of South African children and women in the refugee camps in the neighbouring States warrant support;

3. Supports UNICEF co-operation with the Government of the newly independent State of Namibia for the provision of services to the children and women of that country;

4. Further supports UNICEF co-operation with non-governmental organizations, which are seized with problems relating to children and women inside South Africa, in full consultation with the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania;

5. Requests UNICEF to operate in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions regarding collaboration with the South African regime;

6. Urges the international community to continue providing appropriate forms of support to the oppressed children and women of South Africa;

7. Requests the Executive Director to report in his annual report on these activities to the Executive Board.

IV. CO-OPERATION WITH THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND OTHERS ON VACCINE AND RELATED RESEARCH (E/ICEF/1990/P/L.39)

4. The Programme Committee recommends the following draft resolution for adoption by the Executive Board:

The Executive Board,

Recognizing the importance of assuring universal childhood and maternal immunization (tetanus toxoid),

Bearing in mind the need for improved or new vaccines, as well as the need for affordability and improvement in the delivery of vaccines,

Recognizing the need for close co-operation within the framework of World Health Organization (WHO) programmes and with relevant countries which support vaccine research,

1. Calls on the Executive Director, in collaboration with WHO, to convene an expert group, including those from developing countries, to consider more closely the vaccine and related research needs for furthering UNICEF programme objectives, giving particular attention to applied and operational research;

2. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Executive Board at the earliest opportunity on the findings and recommendations of this expert group, and to make appropriate proposals to the Board.

V. WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN (E/ICEF/1990/12 AND Add.1)

5. The Programme Committee recommends the following draft resolution for adoption by the Executive Board:

The Executive Board

1. Welcomes the report by the chairman of the Planning Committee on the state of preparations for the World Summit for Children;

2. Takes note of the planning and preparations for the World Summit for Children contained in document E/ICEF/1990/12 and Add.1, as well as the statements made at the Executive Board by the Executive Director;

3. Notes with appreciation the progress on preparations for the World Summit for Children, as reported to the Executive Board;

4. Takes note further of the views expressed by the Executive Board, referring to, among others, questions concerning the budget, the topics and discussion, the form of the final declaration and plan of action and the format, including the level of representation, of the meeting;

5. Invites, through the Executive Director, the Planning Committee and the working groups to bear in mind the views expressed by the Executive Board in carrying out their further work;

6. Decides that the Executive Board will review - on the basis of information provided by the Planning Committee and the Executive Director - the preparations for the World Summit for Children at a special session in early September;

7. Notes with appreciation the many expressions of support for the World Summit for Children and the early expressions of intent to attend by Heads of State or Government, and invites those Governments which have not yet responded to the letter of invitation to do so in a positive manner at the earliest opportunity;

8. Notes with appreciation the pledges and contributions of Governments, National Committees for UNICEF and others to the funding of the World Summit for Children;

9. Appeals to those Governments, National Committees for UNICEF and others, which have not yet done so to make voluntary contributions to the special accounts for the World Summit for Children.

VI. CREATING A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD FOR CHILDREN

6. The Programme Committee recommends the following draft resolution for adoption by the Executive Board:

The Executive Board,

Considering the improvement in the international political climate and expressing the hope that future negotiations will permanently reduce tensions throughout the world,

Believing that an era of peace would reduce military expenditures and should result in the increased availability of resources which could be used to benefit mankind through socio-economic programmes, particularly in developing countries,

Reiterating that UNICEF support to humanitarian and development programmes in developing countries aims at protecting and assuring the realization of children's and women's potential,

Considering the need to give increase priority to children,

Taking into account that the UNICEF budget depends on voluntary contributions and that more resources are needed in order to meet children's growing need for assistance,

Taking into account also the message of the UNICEF Executive Board to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament in 1982, 1/

1. Calls upon all States of the international community, as they reduce military expenditures, and in the light of such important events as the World Summit for Children, to consider how they could channel part of the resources released to support country actions to reach the goals and objectives for the 1990s as set out by UNICEF;

1/ E/ICEF/695.

2. Further calls upon all States to consider using such resources to increase financial support to UNICEF programmes of co-operation in developing countries.

VII. FUTURE ROLE OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS 2/ (E/ICEF/1990/L.4)

7. The Programme Committee recommends the following draft resolution for adoption by the Executive Board:

The Executive Board,

Recalling its decision 89/11 requesting the Executive Director to analyse and evaluate the current external relations activities of UNICEF and, on that basis, to outline their future role, policies, guidelines, functions, priorities and activities,

Having considered, at its 1990 regular session, document E/ICEF/1990/L.4 entitled "The future role of UNICEF external relations",

1. Endorses the recommendations and major findings of the final report of the evaluation and analysis of UNICEF external relations policies and functions, provided to Board members in November 1989;

2. Takes note of document E/ICEF/1990/L.4;

3. Supports the preliminary steps taken to improve the integration of the planning and management of UNICEF external relations, in particular reactivating the External Relations Committee and more regular meetings of external relations division directors at headquarters;

4. Endorses the preliminary measures proposed to strengthen the linkages between external relations efforts at headquarters, in the field and with National Committees for UNICEF, in particular as focused on countries where UNICEF has programmes of co-operation;

5. Urges the Executive Director to take the further steps and measures recommended in the evaluation to improve the external relations function;

6. Requests the Executive Director to ensure, within the overall approved level of resources, that external relations has the necessary capacity for planning, budgeting and evaluation, particularly of the impact of activities;

2/ This resolution is adopted with the understanding that the Executive Director will undertake consultations with the members of the Executive Board in the period until the 1991 session, with a view to harmonizing and rationalizing the planning and budgetary processes of the Board.

7. Requests the Executive Director, bearing in mind the recommendations of the evaluation report and the views expressed at the 1990 Executive Board, to review the role, functions and resources of the Geneva Office and the size and level of its staffing, to enable it, in particular, to meet the new challenges that Europe offers in the 1990s, and to present a report thereon, with appropriate recommendations, to the 1991 session of the Executive Board;

8. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Executive Board in his annual report on relevant developments and intentions in the area of external relations;

9. Requests the Executive Director, beginning in 1992, to include, in country programme recommendations which have a significant external relations component, a section setting out external relations activities, expenditures, accomplishments, problems and future plans;

10. Requests further the Executive Director, beginning in 1992 and taking into account the views expressed at the 1990 Executive Board, and in consultation with UNICEF Board members and National Committees, to make the planning of external relations and advocacy an integral part of the medium-term plan process specifying, inter alia, goals, objectives, activities, outputs, staffing and resource requirements and an evaluation plan;

11. Requests the Executive Director to clarify to the Executive Board at its 1991 session the complete role and specific functions of the external relations units mentioned in the evaluation study as requiring better definition and better information, including consideration of such aspects as mandates, resource requirements, outputs and effectiveness, and noting changes and improvements made as a result of this resolution.

VIII. THE BAMAKO INITIATIVE (E/ICEF/1990/L.3)

8. The Programme Committee recommends the following draft resolution for adoption by the Executive Board:

The Executive Board,

Recalling resolution 1988/3 and decision 1989/15 on the Bamako Initiative,

Noting with interest the progress report on the Bamako Initiative as contained in document E/ICEF/1990/L.3,

Welcoming the positive outcome of the Freetown Conference on Community Financing in Primary Health Care (PHC) in September 1989, between UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), donors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and African experts,

Recognizing that the Bamako Initiative is indicating a significant progressive trend, which may help to mitigate the effects of social and economic difficulties,

Considering the continued strong political support for the Bamako Initiative from African Heads of State and Government, NGOs and other leaders,

1. Recognizes the Bamako Initiative as an important strategy in the revitalization of health systems in African countries at the community and peripheral levels, in helping to create the necessary conditions for sustaining expanded programme on immunization coverage and achieving the joint WHO/UNICEF health goals of the 1990s;

2. Reaffirms the main thrust of the policy framework for the Bamako Initiative, as developed jointly with WHO, to make PHC/maternal and child health services universally accessible, to promote the provision of essential drugs and appropriate measures to ensure cost recovery, with a decentralized integrated health delivery system based on community control, and bearing in mind the need for an equitable access for the poorest of the community;

3. Urges UNICEF to accelerate, in accordance with local circumstances, the process of making the Bamako Initiative, based on the principles in the previous paragraph, the core of the health programmes with the necessary allocation of resources within the context of ongoing and new country programmes, in addition to a more vigorous effort at securing the necessary supplementary funding from donors to respond to the enormous needs of African countries;

4. Invites the Executive Director to continue to include in Bamako Initiative programmes adequate resources for monitoring and evaluation so as to ensure that the lessons learned are drawn upon in any extension of the programmes;

5. Stresses the importance of ensuring sustainability of the activities and programmes undertaken under the Initiative;

6. Requests the Executive Director in this context to place special significance on assisting African Governments in national capacity-building and, as an important part of these efforts, to make greater use of national and regional experts in the implementation of the Initiative, to ensure the exchange of experiences between involved countries and to report on this in the annual reports to the Board;

7. Further encourages UNICEF to work closely with Governments, other agencies and national and international non-governmental organizations that have gained relevant experience to ensure co-operation and complementarity of efforts;

8. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the 1991 session of the Executive Board on the full implementation of this resolution.

IX. ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

9. The Programme Committee recommends the following draft resolution for adoption by the Executive Board:

The Executive Board,

Recognizing the serious effects on women and children of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), affecting all countries,

Aware of the increasing number of mothers and children affected by the disease,

Acknowledging the lead role of the World Health Organization (WHO) in the overall co-ordination of the combat against AIDS,

Bearing in mind the effectiveness of the field network of UNICEF,

Recognizing the assistance rendered by UNICEF within the framework of national AIDS control programmes, as reported in document E/ICEF/1990/2,

1. Urges the Executive Director to mobilize further the field offices of UNICEF to make their full contribution to the efforts of the United Nations system, and notably the United Nations Development Programme/WHO alliance to combat the spread of AIDS within the framework of national AIDS control programmes;

2. Requests the Executive Director to ensure a significant contribution of UNICEF, fully using its capacity for advocacy, in mobilizing social awareness in order to avoid behaviour and practices that can spread the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV);

3. Especially requests the Executive Director to consider what further activities UNICEF would be able to undertake on behalf of children orphaned by AIDS;

4. Further requests the Executive Director, in his report to the Executive Board in 1991, to provide a specific account of UNICEF efforts to combat and alleviate the effects of AIDS, giving examples of problems identified, efforts to deal with them and progress in implementation.

X. ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS (E/ICEF/1990/L.7 AND E/ICEF/1990/CRP.2)

10. The Programme Committee recommends the following draft resolution for adoption by the Executive Board:

The Executive Board,

Acknowledging that acute respiratory infections rank among the most common childhood diseases and that acute respiratory infections are among the most frequent causes of child mortality,

Bearing in mind the goal endorsed by the Executive Board at its 1989 session to reduce by 25 per cent the deaths due to acute respiratory infections in children under five years of age,

Having considered at its 1990 regular session documents E/ICEF/1990/L.7 entitled "Acute respiratory infections" and E/ICEF/1990/CRP.2,

1. Accepts the recommendations of the Executive Director;

2. Urges the Executive Director in close co-operation with the World Health Organization (WHO) to give due attention, within the activities defined in the medium-term plan, to the development and funding of strategies and pilot programmes for the control and prevention of acute respiratory infections, within the context of its basic health care programmes, in collaboration with developing countries, non-governmental organizations and bilateral donors involved;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to complement and strengthen the activities of WHO in the development and testing of strategies and methodologies for diagnosis and case management, in particular to encourage the rational use of drugs, with special attention given to antibiotics, inter alia by sharing with WHO, the experience obtained in programmes supported by UNICEF;

4. Calls for a report to be presented at the 1992 regular session of the Executive Board detailing the structure of UNICEF co-operation with WHO and other actors and drawing on evaluations of UNICEF activities in support of national acute respiratory infections programmes in developing countries and on other research findings.

XI. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (E/ICEF/1990/L.8)

11. The Programme Committee recommends the following draft resolution for adoption by the Executive Board:

The Executive Board,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 42/196 of 11 December 1987 and 44/211 of 22 December 1989,

1. Takes note of document E/ICEF/1990/L.8 and progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 42/196;

2. Requests the Executive Director to co-operate with the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation in the preparation of a schedule for implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/211;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to make available to the Director-General and the international community UNICEF experience in decentralization, accountability in a decentralized environment, the programme approach and the value of setting objectives and international and national goals and using them as a basis for management by objectives and for inter-agency collaboration;

4. Also requests the Executive Director to continue to arrange active UNICEF participation in the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operations) and the Joint Consultative Group on Policy in order to promote the harmonization of procedures, the coincidence of programming cycles, the move to co-location of country offices and the effective working of the resident co-ordinator system along the lines suggested in document E/ICEF/1990/L.8;

5. Requests the Executive Director to report on such contributions at the next regular session of the Executive Board.

XII. EMERGENCY OPERATIONS (E/ICEF/1990/11)

12. The Programme Committee recommends the following draft resolution for adoption by the Executive Board:

The Executive Board,

Bearing in mind that the mandate of UNICEF also includes the task to assess requirements and to provide relief in emergency situations,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/236 of 22 December 1989 designating the 1990s as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and other relevant General Assembly resolutions,

Aware of the important role of UNICEF in providing relief to mothers and children in specific emergency situations,

Noting that these activities are, to a large extent, funded by extrabudgetary resources,

Taking note of the report on emergency activities in 1989 (E/ICEF/1990/11),

Requests the Executive Director to include in his 1991 progress report on emergency operations:

(a) A proposal for guidelines on UNICEF involvement, including preparedness plans, authorization modalities, the definition of specific tasks, follow-up mechanisms and evaluation requirements;

(b) An outline of the administrative framework for co-ordination and co-operation between United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and other agencies operational in this field.

XIII. FOCUS ON THE GIRL CHILD

13. The Programme Committee recommends the following draft resolution for adoption by the Executive Board:

The Executive Board,

Recalling its decision 1987/18 on the implementation strategy for UNICEF policy on women in development,

Recognizing that many of the disadvantages facing women are rooted in the neglect of and discrimination against female children,

1. Endorses the recommendations for further action contained in the progress report, document E/ICEF/1990/L.1;

2. Also endorses the priority focus given to the girl child and recommends that all UNICEF programmes and strategies in the 1990s address explicitly the status of the girl child and her needs, particularly in nutrition, health and education, with a view to eliminating gender disparities;

3. Requests UNICEF, in collaboration with other organizations, in particular the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Population Fund, to ensure the effective implementation of gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess progress made in reducing disparities between girls and boys in the services provided through the programmes of co-operation, especially health care services and primary education programmes;

4. Calls upon the Executive Director to ensure that UNICEF country and regional offices, as well as headquarters, have the necessary means and expertise to incorporate effectively women's concerns and needs in all components of the country programmes, particularly in the light of the joint goals and strategies and for the decade of the 1990s;

5. Requests the Executive Director to highlight the girl child in the annual progress report on women in development and to submit a full report on progress made on the situation of the girl child to the 1992 session of the Executive Board and every second year thereafter.